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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

31 July 1972

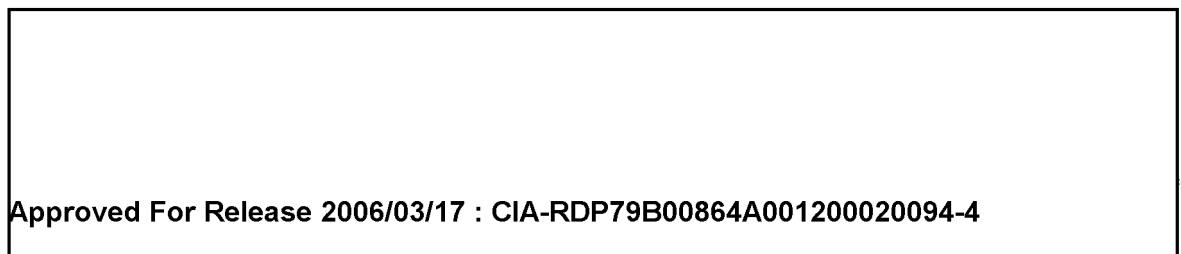
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It Takes Two to Have Relations

Despite Liberian Foreign Minister Weeks' announcement on 23 July that diplomatic relations were established with Czechoslovakia, confirmation is still awaited from Prague. Indeed, a Czechoslovak foreign ministry official said

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relations "definitely" have not been established; nor did he indicate whether they would be. Without reference to diplomatic recognition, President Svoboda sent a standard congratulatory telegram to President Tolbert on Liberian National Day which was published on 23 July in Rude Pravo.

Weeks' enthusiasm over Liberia's recent recognition of Romania and the USSR--which has been one of the accomplishments of Liberia's year-old administration--may have carried him away.

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Sihanouk Interview--Anti-Soviet

Cambodian Prince Sihanouk's interview in the Slovenian daily, Delo, contains some candid anti-Soviet rhetoric. A partial text of the 22 July interview is now available, and among other things includes the following answer to the question of why some socialist nations do not recognize the Sihanouk government: "I speak very frankly, the Soviet Union refuses to recognize us. I myself have submitted two requests for recognition to Moscow, but the Soviet Union has not as yet given a reply. The reason is simple. The greater the support we receive from China, the lesser assistance is granted us by the Soviet side."

The Cambodian leader's words are tailor-made to support the Yugoslav contention that the interests of small states are shunted aside in big power machinations. Moreover, the whole thrust of Tito's adamant support of Prince Sihanouk is implicitly anti-Soviet, carrying the implication that Belgrade is a better spokesman for small nations than Moscow.

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To be sure, Sihanouk's remarks are anti-US and he explicitly condemns the CIA for bringing the Lon Nol regime to power. The Prince also has a great deal of praise for Tito, Cambodian-Yugoslav friendship, and the virtues of nonalignment.

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